













## GOSSIP GOING AROUND

By "GENERAL CHATFIELD"  
 "The Whole Truth."  
 The country anxiously awaits the  
 Government's statement.

Premier's promised statement on Tuesday. Parliament reassembles on Tuesday concerning the exact position on the West Front. I have heard many quieting stories concerning the work of the Fifth Army which, it was said, was responsible for the British retreat south of the Somme. The nation should be told the whole truth who was to blame, and who has been punished for the blunders. With a thing less will it be satisfied.

**A Government Inquiry.**  
Meanwhile the Government has decided to hold an inquiry into the circumstances of the retreat of our Fifth Army from St. Quentin. Gen. Rawlinson, who has been given the command of the Fifth Army in succession to Sir Douglas Haig, will be followed by

**Disaster Averted.**  
I have good grounds for stating that what might have proved an irretrievable disaster to the Allied Armies was averted.

only averted by the remaining leadership of Gen. Byng, of our Third Army, and the French General, Foch. The liaison between the French and the British left under Gen. Humbert was disastrously poor. The British right under Gough was disastrously poor. The outcome of the battle was a tactical draw.

The decision of the military authorities that men over 50 can enlist in groups has "caught on" in many West End clubs, where friends are "linking up" preparatory to "joining up."

They will in due course be posted to coast defence as near as possible to their homes, and a guarantee is given that they will not be called upon for service outside the United Kingdom.

**National War Memorial.**  
Although it is too early yet to decide what form the National War Memorial shall take, I understand that the plan most favoured is the erection of an elaborate building in Hyde Park as a War Museum. If this idea is adopted it would involve the expenditure of about £1,000,000, which it is hoped might be obtained by voluntary contributions. The proposed site for the museum is close to the Serpentine, the water of which would add to the beauty of the architectural effects.

Although the Irish Convention has not yet issued its report, the belief everywhere entertained that a Provisional Government will almost certainly be formed, and that the IRA as well as Nationalists will agree to this course being adopted.

**A Hospital "Coiner."**  
Lord Kintners, in his endeavor to raise a "million half-crown" for the London Hospital, has been called a "halfpenny" printed, to be sold in exchange for the real coin. Would you believe it that officialdom for the issue of the tokens and distribution of the money is a "counterfeiter's counterfeiter?" Eventually there is a climb down, and the authorities have now ordered that the paper dollars shall be perforated with a small hole.

**Widower Goes to Re-marry.**  
The late John Gifford, who had gone to re-marry. The bride-celst is Miss Anne Aitchison, of Museburg.

Many devices are adopted by ingenious Tommies to elude the vigilance of the Censor and give the relatives some indication of the nature of the front in which they are stationed. A certain Welsh soldier wrote at the head of his letter the words "braich yn dagrau," and the Censor, assuming this to be a Welsh motto, allowed it to pass. The man's mother knew better, and was able to read the phrase correctly as "arm and tears," which she understood to mean

**The Queen's Donkey Rides.**  
A day or two ago I ran across an old lady whose family was in Brooklyn, closely associated with the Teds in their home at Richmond. She called an old white donkey which I present Queen used to ride astride with her brothers, all with the heads facing the animal's tail!

**Titled Parlourmaid.**  
The Hon. Mrs. Noel Blich, daughter of the late Lord Blich, was seen at the Teds' party last night.

ter-in-law of the Earl of Darnley, working as a parlourmaid at Londonerry House, which is used as a hospital for officers: Her husband, C. Noel Bligh, is in the Rifle Brigade.

It is of curious interest that the bride, Violet Basden, who as a baby was baptised by the bridegroom, should also see the announcement that Canon H. D. Rawnsley is about to take a second wife. Some 15 months ago he accomplished first wife died, and the Canon, then in his 66th year, felt very severely the parting after 38 years of perfect married happiness. He resigned the living of Crosthwaite, near Keswick, soon afterwards. The late

who will now become the second Mrs. Rawnsley is Miss Simpson, of Wray, Grasmere.

coming back to London has been received with great satisfaction in the Metropolitan Church circles. He is expected to succeed the Rev. P. H. Mason, vicar of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, who was killed while visiting here during an air raid in Jan. Cannon Adeley was for some time headmaster of the school at Oxford House, Bethnal Green, and afterwards a popular incumbent of Berkeley Chapel, Mayfair. He was also a well-known London preacher. For the past 7 years he has been vicar of St. Gabriel's, Birmingham—the poorest parish in the Midlands capital.

**GENERAL CHATTER**

An intercession service attended by Hull Corporation, clergy, Nonconformist ministers, and Jewish representatives was held at Holy Trinity Church, Hull.



## HUN THREAT TO

# DESTROY LONDON.

London is promised annihilation at the hands of the Huns by means of a new type of aircraft. (Ha! Ha!) This pleasing intimation is conveyed to the British public by a cartoon which says: Our enemies have hitherto tried in vain to beat off the German air attacks, and our losses in machines have been extraordinarily insignificant. This is a success which, in view of the strong British defence, could only be due to brilliant German tactics. They have with pride and confidence the future of the war in the air. German technical skill will before long make short work of the English and French anti-aircraft weapons, and the day is not far distant when a simultaneous attack on such a scale will be launched against such formidable power that half those cities will be laid in ruins. On that day there will arise such a stu-

they took command of the popular clamour or risk their necks.

**“The Hands of Destruction.”**

The appalling picture which is to overwhelm the English and French is adumbrated by “The Dissuadatory,” a picture of an old man which is full of outrageous and revolting blasphemy. The English are indeed obstinate mules, and blind ones to boot. They have been deceived and have cheaply had they closed with our cordial offers. The German Lord God, however, in His wisdom, cherishes the English and French, and the English and French remain obstinate and refuse us peace, they shall go within the next month or two and they will be the victors. The English and their heads—worse, far worse, than that which has overwhelmed the Russians—and from that catastrophe will be born a new world.

The German Lord God will it, and no man can withstand His will.

**AIRMAN'S FIRST FLIGHT**

## Sensations Experienced by a Young Aviator.

What are the sensations experienced by an airman on making his first flight? The answer, of course, according to the experience of the aviator and to the "stunts" undertaken. People who read forward to the following paragraph, and learn from his son, who is now undergoing a course of training. He writes:—

"My first flight was very exciting, but I don't think I shall ever want to look as a dog. Goodness only knows how I ever had the nerve to leave at all. I think I was one of the galliest fellows to do anything. When we left the ground I was sure I was going to be sick. After getting a few hundred feet up the sensation was more like sitting in a very comfortable chair. I was not at all dizzy. After a while the pilot began a spinning nose-dive, whereby everything seemed to be whirling round me. I never seemed to be an exceedingly strong magnet, to which my stomach pressed my

When, going straight out of that bed, I found my stomach was already possessed of a great desire to push my shoulder-blades out of place. Arriving at the cockpit, I found myself in a down position, my brain went round and down and met my stomach in my throat. I was not alone in this. "I'm a little stunts," but flew fairly level, but the swaying motion of the machine pushed my stomach out of place. Budding aviators conclude: "I am afraid I am a bad sailor, but am getting along all right in my own style."

### AIR FIGHTS IN MARCH.

**709 ENEMY PLANES DOWN.**

Our mastery of the air and the brilliant work of our fighters and observers are exemplified in the record set up during March in the destruction of enemy machines. In addition to the 709 enemy planes destroyed and eight py bombs on German positions last month—chiefly since the great offensive began—our air force has dealt as follows with German aeroplanes:

	Destroyed	Survived	Total
R.F.C.	350	189	539
R.N.A.S.	22	16	38
British totals	372	205	577
French Air Service (up to Mar.30)	27	10	37
Total for Western front			614
Balloons destroyed:			
By French	20		20
By British	7		7
Total			27
British machines missing			250

**OVER THE N RTH SEA.**

**FIGHT WITH FIVE SEAPLANES.**

Air-mec. (2nd Class) G. H. Robinson has been awarded the D.S.M. for his gallant and skilful action in a seaplane fight in the North Sea, when the action of the remainder of the crew has been brought to the notice of the Admiralty.

The seaplane was attacked by 5 enemy seaplanes, and by manoeuvring in a zig-zag pattern, the crew of the British machine were brought to bear on the enemy.

in the course of the action our soldiers were killed, and the enemy's were kept up a running fight, and Robinson brought down a single-seater aeroplane, which crashed into the enemy's camp, giving up the fight 5 minutes later.

**EFFECT OF OUR RAIDS.**  
**"INDESCRIBABLE TERROR" IN**  
**GERMANY.**  
 "Les Nouvelles," of Maastricht, says: "We learn from a reliable source the following particulars about the effect of the recent raids of the Allied airmen into Germany: On the occasion of the last raid on Cologne 26 were killed and 400 wounded. Tremendous damage was caused at the station, where the bombs completely demolished the tracks, and the station was almost destroyed, but one on Trave also had terrible consequences. There were 60 killed and hundreds wounded. The station was completely destroyed, and the streets in the neighbourhood and

nothing more than a heap of ruins. The raid last week on Cologne met with similar success, the station being hit several times and many buildings being demolished. A troop train in the station had its carriages smashed to atoms, and many of the occupants were killed or wounded. The Kaiser visited the spot the following day. The feeling of terror prevailing in Germany is indescribable.











